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Title: Need to accord approval to Metro Rail Project for Nagpur and also increase the share of contribution of Central Government to 40% for Metro Rail Projects for non-metro cities.

SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR (NAGPUR): I wish to present a very important issue concerning the city of Nagpur. It was decided to provide Metro Rail facility in a city like Nagpur much before such a scheme was conceived for cities having a population of one million or more. Unfortunately, no concrete steps were taken to implement this scheme in Nagpur to eliminate transport bottlenecks. In fact, such a scheme should have been fervently implemented to fulfill the long aspirations of the people of Nagpur as it will ensure that prevention is better than cure if overriding priority to implement this important project is accorded and the share of the Central Government be increased to 40% for non-metro cities with a view to facilitate the implementation of such projects.

Nagpur is one of the important cities in the country which is developing fast industrially. Unfortunately, the transport network has not increased to the same extent to meet the increasing requirements of this city having a population of over 40 lakhs. Therefore, metro rail network in a centrally located place like Nagpur deserved an overriding priority to meet the transport needs of the city.

Keeping these aspects in view and with the objectives of providing fast, safe and efficient transport system for movement, the State Government of Maharashtra has since approved the proposal of providing Metro Rail facility in Nagpur at an estimated cost of Rs.8000 crore and submitted the same to the Union Ministry of Urban Development.

As per the existing arrangement, 20% cost of the project is to be met by the State Government, to which they have agreed, 20% by Central Government under JNNURM scheme and 10% by the local authorities. Since the local bodies find it extremely difficult to raise their share of money due to the acute financial position, it was proposed that in order to make the project viable the share of the Central Government under JNNURM need to be raised to 40% for non-metro cities. The remaining 40% of the cost of the project can be met by way of private participation.

In view of the above, I would urge upon the Government to accord the necessary approval to this important project on priority basis and also agree to increase its share of contribution to 40% for non-metro cities like the one in Nagpur.